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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
Washington

F.S.  
CF-36

January 7, 1927

FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

LEMON CROP IN NAPLES CONSULAR DISTRICT

Prospects for an abundant lemon crop in the Naples consular district are reported to be excellent, according to a report received in the Department of Agriculture from Vice Consul Adam Beaumont at Naples. The crop is estimated at 30,000,000 lemons, or about 100,000 cases. Although the weather has been cool and there have been frequent rains, no damage has been done by the weather and very little by the citrus fly. The lemons are of good quality and of average size.

Exports of lemons from Naples to the United States during the first eleven months of 1926 amounted to 1,643,000 pounds as compared with 3,607,000 pounds during the corresponding period in 1925. This represents a reduction of 45 per cent in exports to the American market from that port. The bulk of the lemons is shipped to the United States during the last six months of the year. June, July and August are the months of heaviest shipments. Germany is usually the chief importer of Italian lemons, states Vice Consul Beaumont. In 1925, when exports from all of Italy totaled 500,814,000 pounds, Germany took 24.5 per cent of the total, the United Kingdom 19.8 per cent and the United States 17.6 per cent.

Italian lemons are classified into three grades, according to size. Grade "A" lemons must be 3.3 inches in circumference, and Grade "B" 6.9 inches, all other sizes falling into Grade "C". Three different sizes of crates are used, since all lemons are packed 300 to the case. The gradings have nothing to do with the quality of the lemons but apply only to size.

Approximately 1,000 persons, mostly women and children, are employed during the packing season in the lemon industry of the Naples consular district, according to the Vice Consul. Wages paid for this kind of labor are 5 lire per day, which is equivalent to \$0.22. The average cost of picking, packing, boxing and transporting on board ship at Naples is 18 lire per box, or about \$0.79.

